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Remarks

This paper is a response to the pending Office Action mailed June 3, 2003. By this Response, applicants address the issues raised in the Office action.

The Abstract has been amended per the Examiner's suggestions,

The Office Action indicates that claims 3, 4, 10-16, 21-24 and 52 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended the claims so that they are now in form for allowance in light of the above indication of allowable subject matter. The rejections set forth in Paragraphs 5-7 and 10 of the Office Action have been rendered moot by these amendments to the claims.

An explanation of the pending claims is set forth below.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 3, since claim 3 was indicated to be allowable and depends from claim 1.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and is allowable for this reason. Further, claim 2 has been amended per the Examiner's suggestion.

Claim 3 has been cancelled since the language thereof has been incorporated into the claim 1.

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Claim 4 (indicated to contain allowable subject matter) has been amended to include the limitations of claim 1 which is the claim from which it depended.

Claims 5 through 9 have not been amended, but are submitted to be allowable because they depend in some fashion from allowable claim 1, which should be allowable.

Claim 10 (indicated to contain allowable subject matter) has been amended to be an independent claim that contains the limitations of claims 1, 9 and 10.

Claim 11 (indicated to contain allowable subject matter) has been amended to be an independent claim that contains the limitations of claims 1, 7 and 11.

Claim 12 (indicated to contain allowable subject matter) has been amended to be an independent claim that contains the limitations of claims 1, 9 and 12.

Claim 13 (indicated to contain allowable subject matter) has been amended to be an independent claim that contains the limitations of claims 1, 9 and 13.

Claim 14 (indicated to contain allowable subject matter) has been amended to be an independent claim that contains the limitations of claims 1, 7 and 14.

Claim 15 (indicated to contain allowable subject matter) has been amended to be an independent claim that contains the limitations of claims 1, 7 and 15.

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Claim 16 (indicated to contain allowable subject matter) has been amended to be an independent claim that contains the limitations of claims 1, 7 and 16.

Claims 17-20 depend in some form from allowable claim 1 and hence are allowable.

Claim 21 (indicated to contain allowable subject matter) has been amended to be an independent claim that includes the limitations of claims 1, 17, 18, 20 and 21.

Claim 22 has not been amended, but depends from allowable claim 21.

Claim 23 (indicated to contain allowable subject matter) has been amended to be an independent claim that contains the limitations of claims 1, 9 and 23.

Claim 24 (indicated to contain allowable subject matter) has been amended to include the limitations of claims 1 and 24.

Claim 25 through claim 51 have been cancelled.

Claim 52 (indicated to contain allowable subject matter) has been amended to be an independent claim that includes the limitations of claims 1 and 52.

Claims 53 and 54 have been cancelled.

Applicants submit that the pending claims 1, 2, 4-24, and 52 are allowable, and solicit the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability and Notice of Issue Fee Due.

If the Patent Examiner disagrees with the applicant's position, but has suggestions to place the claims in form

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for allowance, applicant urges the Patent Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney (615-662-0100) or Mr. John J. Prizzi at (724) 539-5331.

Respectfully submitted,

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